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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1 March 1962

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

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AG. of S. Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Watch Committee--National Indications Center (U)

1. In accordance with your instructions, Mr. Roger Hilsman, Mr. Harry S. Traynor and I submit herewith a proposed reply to Mr. J. Patrick Coyne's memorandum to you, above subject, dated 5 February 1962. The proposed reply is somewhat lengthy. This results from a widespread feeling among the witnesses interviewed by us that much of the concern of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board concerning the responsiveness of the Watch Committee and the National Indications Center may be based on a less-than-complete understanding of the indications process as it is presently organized and the cost in duplication of effort and manpower and in the complexities and the far-reaching effects of any major reorganization of this process. There are many paragraphs in the proposed reply that are strictly explanatory and can be removed therefrom without affecting the substance of the memorandum.

2. We concluded after careful study that the National Indications Center is properly organized and discharges its function in an effective manner. It is marginally manned and could use profitably about six more people. We do not believe this function should be transferred to or combined with the functions of the Department of Defense Intelligence Agency Current Intelligence Indications Center, nor should the CIIC assume multiple agency functions since it must remain completely responsive to Department of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff requirements. Because of the confusion that might be created in some minds by the similarity in name between the NIC and the CIIC, and to more accurately describe the mission of the NIC, we suggest that the name of the NIC be changed to the "National Warning Center."

3. We concluded that the NIC should not assume the detailed analysis of possible indicators now performed by Defense, State, and the CIA and other intelligence agencies since this would involve a large increase in staff and inevitable duplication of effort, and that the above-named agencies are better qualified to evaluate and assess the importance of

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these indicators by virtue of their large staff and specialization than is the NIC. The NIC currently receives virtually all of the information needed with the exception of certain closely held messages. Many of these messages ought properly to be released to the NIC under the terms of NSC 5438. It is possible that the NIC could make use of additional communications facilities and we recommend that this matter be studied.

4. Virtually without exception, the persons knowledgeable of the functions of the Watch Committee and the NIC agree that the present organization and process is basically sound. A small augmentation in personnel is indicated. There must be constant vigilance on the part of all USIB members to assure that all appropriate information is provided the NIC. The NIC must remain contiguous to the CIIC. The DIA plans to move the CIIC within the next few months. We recommend that at that time you request of the Secretary of Defense space contiguous to the CIIC for the NIC.

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Proposed Memo
for Mr. Coyne
fr DCI



ALVA R. FITCH
Major General, GS
ACofS for Intelligence

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